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THE OAK LEAF

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 No. 3

March-April 1969

SPRING FIELD MEETING - COME AND VISIT MEADOW WOODS NATURAL AREA

All Chapter members, their guests and friends are invited to attend part or all of this general membership meeting and to meet the Conservancy's national President, Thomas W. Richards, on Saturday, May 10th, 1969 at the Meadow Woods Natural Area in Essex. This 97-acre Preserve was donated to The Nature Conservancy by Mr. & Mrs. Earl L. Canfield just over a year ago. Our hosts will be the Canfields and the Meadow Woods Project Committee.

PROGRAM:

An informal Chapter business meeting at 10:30 AM will include many interesting Project Reports and any items Chapter members may wish to present.

Our speaker for the meeting is to be Thomas W. Richards, of Washington, D. C., President of The Nature Conservancy.

Luncheon will be at noon. Bring your own box lunch; hot coffee will be provided.

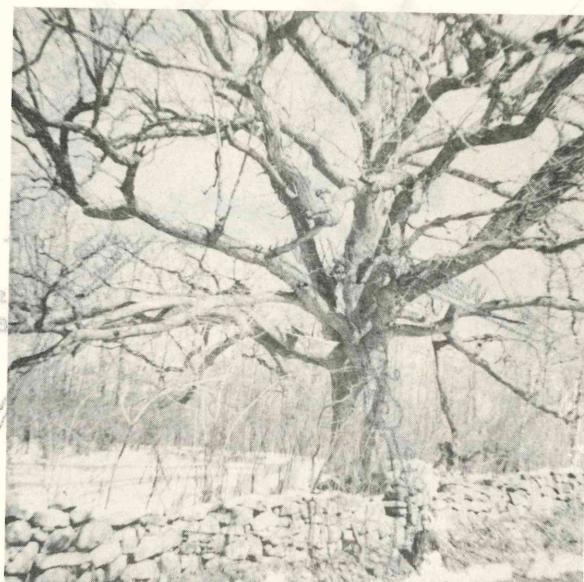
Guided Walks will be conducted into the Meadow Woods Natural Area in the afternoon by naturalists from the Thames Science Center in New London.

(continued on page 2)

WHITE OAK GROVE IS PRESERVED

White Oak Grove is a gift of a six-acre tract to The Nature Conservancy by Walter J. Moran. Located in Southeastern Connecticut - in Montville, the major features of this new preserve are two ancient white oaks which have produced many seedlings. Some of these are now nearly a foot in diameter.

Formerly a pasture overgrown with high bush blueberries, this Nature Preserve is in an interesting stage of ecological succession from agricultural land to forest. These magnificent trees and the varied ground cover of wildflowers will be ours to enjoy in the years to come - thanks to the generosity of Mr. Moran who has preserved a bit of the country-side he loves so well.



SPRING FIELD MEETING
(cont. from page 1)

TIME: Saturday, May 10, 1969
at 10:15 AM

PLACE: Meadow Woods Natural Area, Essex, Connecticut

Meet at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Earl L. Canfield, Book Hill Road, Essex.

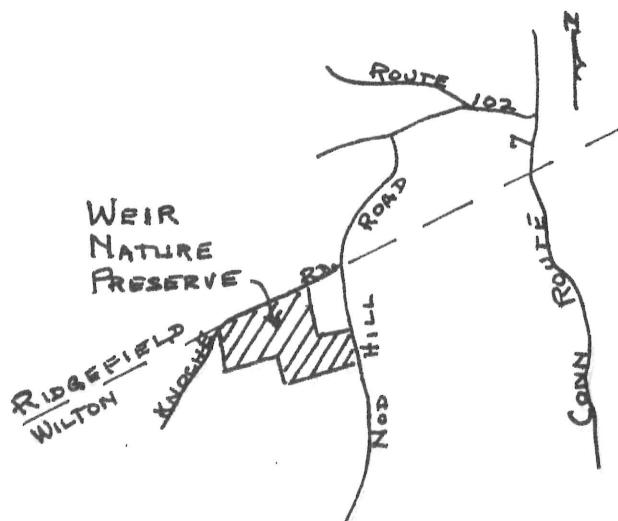
Directions: From Hartford, take Route 9 south to Exit 3 in Essex; or from I-95, exit onto Route 9 in Old Saybrook and proceed north to Exit 3 in Essex. Then follow map shown below to the Canfield home just off Book Hill Road. TNC signs will mark Book Hill Road and the Canfield Road.



THE WEIR NATURE PRESERVE IS FIRST GIFT IN 1969

The first gift of land to The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut in 1969 is a fine old woodland tract of 37 acres in Wilton on the Ridgefield border. It was given by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burlingham on January 3rd to insure all time preservation of the land in its natural state.

One of the features in the Preserve is a moss and fern covered long rock outcropping. The wooded acreage, abundant with dogwood trees, is a lovely piece for it represents typical New England former farmland, abandoned to recapture by nature about a century ago, when the Yankee farmer could no longer compete with the easier to farm lands in the West or the lure of the towns.



CHAPTER CHAIRMAN BUSY AGAIN

Our Connecticut Chapter Chairman, Charlie Clark, was inactivated from mid-February to mid-March following surgery in the Greenwich Hospital. He is back on the job now and in good health busily catching up with our Conservancy efforts.

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR THE COTTRELL MARSH

The captivating story of the deadline preservation of the Cottrell Marsh is indeed appealing to all ages. Among our contributors to the fund drive for the Cottrell Marsh is a girl of 13 who had her parents give her money that they would have spent for her birthday present so that she could help save this marsh from developers.

Another family of six adults got together and sent in a contribution for the Cottrell Marsh fund as a part of their Christmas gift giving.

Contributions are still sought for our major marshland acquisition. The Cottrell Marsh Preserve of some 50 acres in Mystic, Connecticut was made possible by a loan of \$20,000 at a moment of decision on the fate of this lovely coastal marsh.

We still need \$9,000 to pay off this loan. This is your opportunity to have a part in saving a splendid salt marsh - a rapidly disappearing natural resource.

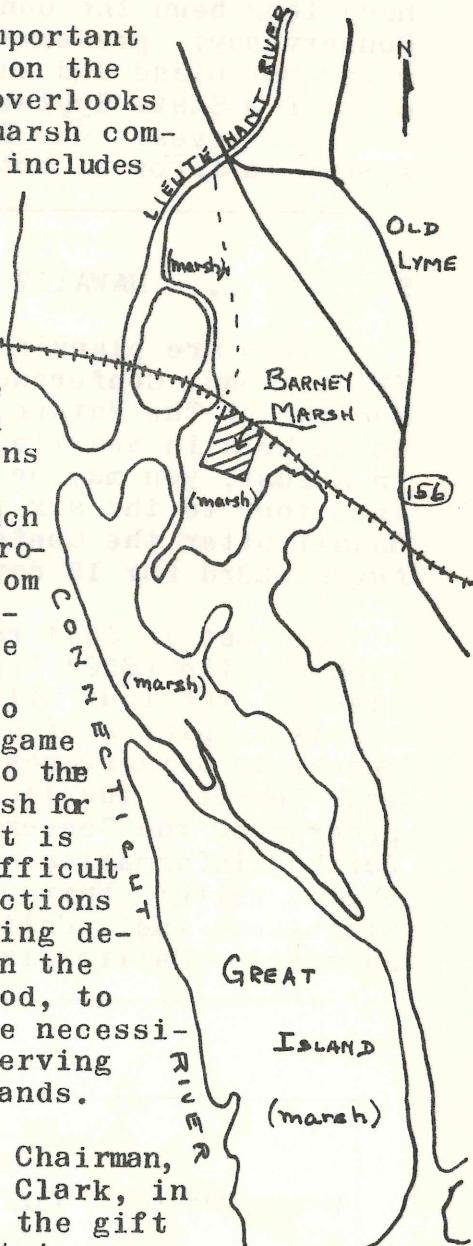
Contributions since January are as follows: (This listing also includes inadvertent omissions from the listing in the January Newsletter.)

Mrs. Ellery Allyn	Rebecca E. Kiernan
Mrs. George S. Avery	Kenneth K. Klingensmith
Mrs. Homer W. Borst	Robert F. Kunz
Miss Helen R. Braem	Mrs. Harry H. Lugg
Mr & Mrs. H. S. Cafferty	Rosalie T. McKenna
Mr. D. A. Carlson	Claire E. Moseley
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Catlin	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph A. Perkins
Mrs. Charles T. Chapin	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur B. Phirney
Mr. Edward C. Childs	Mr. & Mrs. Davis G. Phinney
Frances B. Colby	Mrs. Leonard Pritchett
Mrs. Roderic M. Cross	Mr. Robert E. Quinby
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel G. Dodd	Dr. & Mrs. J. S. Rankin, Jr
Mrs. Pearl W. Dore	Miss Gloria Riggs
Thomas A. Gaines	Mrs. George F. Robinson
Mr. Joseph N. Gill	Dr. Orville F. Rogers
Mrs. James L. Goodwin	David Rosenfield
Mrs. Robert Henkle	Mr. Arno Schulman
Mr. Earl H. Hodge	Mrs. H. L. Stephenson
Mrs. Davenport Hooker	Miss Ruth Thomas
Mrs. W. W. Ingersheimer	Miss Ruth Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Jordan	Mrs. G. R. Wyatt

SALT MARSH GIFT IN OLD LYME

The vitally important task of preserving as much of the remaining Connecticut salt water marsh as possible was brought to a fruition in Old Lyme with the dedication of 15 acres of prime salt marsh. The tract is a gift from Mrs. Gertrude Wells Barney, of Old Lyme to the Conservancy.

This important marshland on the mainland overlooks the vast marsh complex that includes Great Island at the mouth of the Connecticut River. The food chain which begins in tidal marshes such as this, progresses from tiny organisms to the small fish and then to the large game fish and to the harvest fish for market. It is not too difficult with predictions of the coming dependency on the sea for food, to realize the necessity of preserving our marshlands.



Chapter Chairman, Charles A. Clark, in announcing the gift stated, "It is generous persons like Mrs. Barney who have an understanding of, and feeling for, the great biological values of salt marshes and the importance of preserving them that will make their preservation possible. It is hoped that others will follow her example."

FROM THE HARTFORD SCENE...

Awareness in our environment and the problems concerning the preservation of a livable environment are reflected very clearly in the abundance and variety of bills up for consideration by the 1969 Connecticut General Assembly.

Two programs, in particular, have long been the concern of the Conservancy: preservation of salt water marshland and the establishment of a State System of Natural Area Preserves. Our Chapter has spoken in favor of both.

SEATTLE? ... HAWAII? . . .

If you are planning to attend the National Conference and Annual Meeting of The Nature Conservancy, to be held in Seattle, Washington in August, you may be interested in a tour to the six islands of Hawaii after the Conference, on August 23rd for 15 days.

The cost is \$544 round trip from Seattle (\$524 from San Francisco). The tour will include visits to places of special interest to Conservancy people. This tour benefits the land conservation program of the Conservancy. For further information and a free brochure, write: Unitours of San Francisco, Inc., Unitours Bldg., Sausalito, California 94965.

CONSERVANCY SLIDE FILE

With the arrival of Spring, many of us bring our cameras out-of-doors to capture the beauties of Nature.

The Connecticut Chapter is currently trying to build an interesting collection of slides taken at various Conservancy functions or on our lovely and interesting Nature Preserves. We would appreciate receiving duplicates of pictures you may have. Such slides will build into a fine story of Connecticut Chapter activites over a period of time.

These slides and an explanation of each may be sent to the Chapter Office at: 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06903.

"The basic problems of conservation are a result of the conflict between man's power and his wisdom."

Connecticut Conservation Association

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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The Editor invites any comments concerning, or articles for, the Chapter Newsletter.